What we Claim is:

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1. A chair with a seat that folds down about a horizontal axle and which is intended, in particular, to equip halls that receive the public, such as lecture theatres and/or show halls, comprising at least an underframe having an essentially longitudinal axis and to which a backrest may be fixed, and with respect to which a fixed horizontal axle is determined, said seat comprising a first part projecting forwards with respect to said horizontal axle, and a second part projecting towards said underframe, wherein said underframe contains a gas strut, one end of which is fixed to said underframe, and the other end of which is fixed to said second part of said seat.

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2. The chair according to Claim 1, wherein the distance between said horizontal axle and said longitudinal axis of

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said underframe is between about 2 and 15 cm.

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3. The chair according to Claim 2, wherein said horizontal axle is carried by an intermediate part projecting from the longitudinal axis of said underframe to which it is fixed.

4. The chair according to Claim 2, wherein said distance is variable.

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The chair according to Claim 4, wherein said piece constitutes a rail collaborating with said seat to alter the position of said horizontal axle with respect to said seat according to the angle β by which said seat is deployed.

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6. The chair according to Claim 1, wherein said horizontal axle is carried by an arm which is free to rotate about a first of its ends which is fixed to said underframe.

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The chair according to Claim 6, wherein an other end of said arm is mounted so that it can slide in a rail secured to said seat.

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- 8. The chair according to claim 1, wherein an opening is made in said underframe, facing said second part of said seat, so as to at least partially accommodate this said second part.
- 9. The chair according to Claim 8, wherein the length of that part of said second part which enters said opening is shorter than the diameter of said underframe.

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The chair according to claim 1, wherein said longitudinal axis makes a determined angle β with the vertical, said underframe being assembled telescopically, a first element of said underframe carrying said seat and said strut, and taking up vertical forces, while a second element of said underframe takes up the horizontal forces generated by the weight of the user.

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11. The chair according to Claim 10, wherein said second element is capable of carrying a work surface for a user seated behind said chair.